

Using the Research Connections Teaching Modules in an Online Course

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Focus and Rationale

- Introduce beginning early childhood education students to the Research Connections website
- Focus on foundation course required for all early childhood education students
- Adapt and link Research Connections Teaching Modules Worksheets to and across course content and textbook
- Use each of the Research Connections Modules Worksheets 1-5 in the same course

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Student Learning Outcomes

- Understand the linkage between theory, research, and evidence based practice
- Identify, understand, and use peer reviewed journal articles, policy briefs, and other materials as resources
- Implement evidence based practices in early childhood laboratory placements, classrooms, and programs serving young children and families
- Understand the importance and use of reference citations in academic course work, early childhood teaching, and family informational materials
- Understand, discuss, evaluate, verbalize, and implement early care and education mission, philosophy, and developmentally appropriate practices using theory based research

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Procedure for Online Course

- Download Research Connection Teaching Modules Worksheets from website and save
- Adapt each worksheet to include course linked content and save
- Upload adapted worksheets into online course assignments area for students
- Create link to Research Connections website in online course for students
- Create discussion questions for each adapted worksheet assignment and post in online discussion board

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Use and Adaptation of Teaching Module I Worksheet

- **CHD 2003**
- **Research Connections Assignment I:** Understanding Research
- **Due Dates:** Assignment is due February 1, Discussion in Groups February 2-8
- **Read:** Chapter 1 Introduction, Research for Life Span Development Pages 25-33, before reading the lecture and completing Research Connections Assignment I in "Assignments."
- **"What's the use of research?"** or "Everything I read has a different answer - how do I decide what information to pay attention to?" are comments that I often hear from students. A website has been developed to help early care and education teachers learn more about the value of research in supporting effective practices and policies in early childhood education. The website is called Research Connections and it can be found at www.researchconnections.org or you can access it from External Links in the course Blackboard. This semester you will be completing 5 Research Connections assignments designed to help you learn how to use the website and to learn more about research and research based teaching.
- **Begin** by exploring the website and finding out what it has to offer. Then go to the Understanding Research section of the website and read the information. You may want to print off the Research Connections Assignment I and use it as a guide while you explore the website. Part I of the assignment **"Initial Explorations"** focuses on navigating the website and Part II focuses **"Research Terminology."** Select one of the research terms from the textbook **"Research in Life-Span Development"** pages 25-33 in the course textbook to complete Part II of the Research Connections Assignment I.
- **Complete** the assignment and upload it into Assignments. Then go to Groups/Discussion Board to discuss the assignment with your classmates. Click below to read, print and save Research Connections Assignment I to your computer.

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Example Adaptation of Worksheet I

Welcome to Child Care and Early Education Research Connections!

Assignment I – Total Possible Points 20

- Your Name _____ Date _____
- **Read:** Chapter 1 Introduction, Research for Life Span Development Pages 25-33, before reading the lecture and completing Research Connections Assignment I in "Assignments."
- **Part I:** Initial Exploration of the *Research Connections Web Site* 8 Points
- Please go to the home page of the *Research Connections* site, www.researchconnections.org The website is listed in Blackboard External Links. Preview the Research Connections home page and begin by exploring freely, clicking on a number of links to see what you may find. Then complete the following tasks and questions. Bring the finished worksheet to class.

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Research Connections Teaching Module I Online Group Discussion Board

Go to **Assignments** for the **Research Connection I** assignment instructions. After completing the Research Connections I assignment use the questions below to begin a discussion on research related topics. See pages 25-32 in your textbook.

- 1) Discuss how ethics in research (see page 32 in textbook) has the potential to effect each of us personally.
- 2) What is the difference between a popular magazine and a professional journal? Why would you not want to use a popular magazine as a reference for an early childhood education term paper or laboratory assignment? List the name of a professional journal that you have read and used as a reference for one early childhood course assignments.
- 3) Which research term from Chapter I pages 25-32 did you select to research and what did you learn about it? Explain the term and give a down-to-earth example that would help someone else understand this term. If possible, draw your example from the early childhood world of programs, teachers, children, and families.

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Worksheet Module I Student Discussion Board Example

- “The term I selected was naturalistic observation. The term means to conduct an observation in a natural setting that is not controlled, directed or manipulated. If a person is in a controlled setting they may respond differently than in their natural setting. An example I thought of is (FDCRS) the family day care rating scale. This observation is conducted in the providers home observing children in their natural child care setting. The assessor observes how the children respond and react to the provider, material and equipment provided, and curriculum offered. After the observation the provider can use the results to make changes and increase the quality of care.”

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Use and Adaptation of Teaching Module II Worksheet

- **CHD 2003**
- **Research Connections Assignment II:** Early Childhood Development
- **Due Dates:** Assignment is due February 8, Discussion in Groups February 8-14
- **NOTE:** Read Chapter 2 Biological Beginnings, Chapter 3 Physical and Cognitive Development in Infancy, and Chapter 4 Socioemotional Development in Infancy before completing Research Connections II Assignment in "Assignments."
- Review Chapters 2, 3, and 4. Save the Research Connections Assignment II in Assignments to your computer. Conduct the research for this assignment on the Research Connections website at www.researchconnections.org. You can also access this website from External Links in this Blackboard.
- In Part I Risk Factors select one developmental "risk factors" from the assigned chapters that may occur during prenatal and infant development. In Part II Child Development Terminology select and research a developmental term or concept from the assigned chapters. In Part III select and research one of the child development theorists or researchers from the assigned chapters.

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Example Adaptation of Worksheet II

Research Connections and Early Childhood Development Assignment 2 – Total Possible Points 20

- Your Name _____ Due Date _____
- **Read:** Chapter 2, Biological Beginnings, Chapter 3 Physical and Cognitive Development in Infancy, and Chapter 4 Socioemotional Development in Infancy
- **Part I: Risk Factors 7 Points**
- List a Specific Risk Factor in Young Children's Development to Investigate:

- Back-up (if you are not successful in finding information on your first risk factor)

- Your main source of information will be the *Research Connections* web site, www.researchconnections.org. The website is listed in Blackboard External Links. From the Research Connections home page, click on "Understanding Research" and from there, go to the alphabetical "Research Glossary."

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Research Connections Teaching Module II Online Discussion Board

- Go to **Assignments** for the **Research Connection 2** assignment instructions. After completing the Research Connections 2 assignment use the questions below to begin a discussion on research related topics.
- 1) Why is it important to know and understand specific risk factors during prenatal development and infancy? Which risk factor did you research from Chapters 2, 3, or 4 (Prenatal Development and Infancy) and what did you learn about this risk?
- 2) Using professional terminology is important in your work as an early care and education professional. Share the child development term you selected to research and briefly describe what you found.
- 3) Understanding theory and research to inform your classroom practices is one of the criteria for being a well prepared early care and education teacher. Who was the child development researcher or theorist that you chose to research? What did you learn about this person, their theory or research?

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Worksheet Module II Student Discussion Board Example

- “It is very important to know risk factors in young children's development because knowing what risk factors may help early childhood professionals to better help a child develop properly no matter what risk factor that child has. I researched low birth weight. I learned that a low birth weight baby weighs only 5 1/2 pounds at birth. I also learned that some of the consequences of low weight babies are they typically have more health and developmental problems than a normal weight baby. By the time a low birth weight baby reaches school age they are more likely to have learning disabilities, attention deficit disorder, or breathing problems such as asthma. About 50 percent of low birth weight children are enrolled in special education programs. In the U.S. the number of low birth weight babies has increased in the last two decades.”

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